

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A node (26₁ or 26₂) of a radio access network of a telecommunications
2 system which prepares a message for transmission to at least one other node of the
3 radio access network, the message resulting from occurrence of a reset procedure (104)
4 affecting a control node which controls connections with user equipment units (30) in a
5 connected mode, the message including an element which collectively indicates that a
6 subset of the connections are to be released so that the user equipment units (30)
7 involved in the subset of the connections can return to an idle mode.

1 2. The node of claim 1, wherein the node which prepares the message is a radio
2 network control node (26₁) which controls the connections.

1 3. The node of claim 1, wherein the node performs plural processes with each of
2 the plural processes handling a respective one of plural subsets of connections with user
3 equipment units (30) in the connected mode, and wherein when the reset procedure
4 (104) affects a specific one of the plural processes, an element corresponding to the
5 respective one of the plural subsets of connections handled by the specific one of the
6 plural processes is included in the message.

1 4. The node of claim 1, wherein the element comprises a group identity for the
2 subset of connections; wherein the group identity comprises a group value and a group
3 bit mask index, wherein the group bit mask index indicates bits of the group value
4 which are common for all connections of the subset of connections; and wherein the
5 group value is a group S-RNTI and the group bit mask index indicates the bits of the
6 group S-RNTI which are common for all connections of the subset of connections.

1 5. The node of claim 1, wherein the node which prepares the message is a drift
2 radio network control node (26₂) which provides radio resources for the connections
3 handled by a serving radio network control node (26₁).

1 6. The node of claim 5, wherein the element comprises a group identity for the
2 subset of connections; wherein the group identity comprises a control node identifier, a
3 group value, and a group bit mask index, wherein the group bit mask index indicates
4 bits of the group value which are common for all connections of the subset of

connections; and wherein the group value is a group U-RNTI and the group bit mask index indicates the bits of the U-RNTI value which are common for all connections of the subset of connections.

7. A radio access network of a telecommunications system comprising:
a serving control node (26₁) which controls connections with user equipment units (30) in a connected mode;
at least one drift control node (26₂) which provides radio resources in cells controlled by the at least one drift control node (26₂) for some of the connections handled by the serving control node (26₁);

wherein the serving control node (26₁) sends a message for transmission to the at least one drift control node (26₂) of the radio access network, the message resulting from occurrence of a reset procedure (104) affecting the serving control node (26₁), the message including an element which collectively indicates that a subset of the connections are to be released so that the user equipment units (30) involved in the subset of the connections can return to an idle mode.

8. The network of claim 7, wherein the at least one drift control node (26₂) is arranged, upon receipt of the message, to send a response message to the serving control node (26₁).

9. The network of claim 7, wherein the at least one drift control node (26₂) sends a further message to a base station (28) controlled by the at least one drift control node (26₂), the further message including a further element, the further element being derived from the element included in the message.

10. The network of claim 9, wherein the element comprises a group identity for the subset of connections; wherein the group identity comprises a control node identifier indicative of the serving control node, a group value, a group bit mask index, and wherein the group bit mask index indicates bits of the group value which are common for all connections of the subset of connections; and wherein the group value is a group U-RNTI and the group bit mask index indicates the bits of the U-RNTI value which are common for all connections of the subset of connections.

1 11. A method of operating a node (26₁ or 26₂) of a radio access network of a
2 telecommunications system which prepares a message for transmission to at least one
3 other node of the radio access network, the message resulting from occurrence of a
4 reset procedure (104) affecting a control node which controls connections with user
5 equipment units (30) in a connected mode, the method comprising including in the
6 message an element which collectively indicates that a subset of the connections are to
7 be released so that the user equipment units (30) involved in the subset of the
8 connections can return to an idle mode.

1 12. The method of claim 11, further comprising using a radio network control
2 method (26₁) which controls the connections to prepare the message.

1 13. The method of claim 11, further comprising:
2 performing at the node plural processes with each of the plural processes
3 handling a respective one of plural subsets of connections with user equipment units
4 (30) in the connected mode;
5 when the reset procedure (104) affects a specific one of the plural processes,
6 including in the message an element corresponding to the respective one of the plural
7 subsets of connections handled by the specific one of the plural processes.

1 14. The method of claim 11, further comprising using a drift radio network
2 control node (26₂) which provides radio resources for the connections handled by a
3 serving radio network control node (26₁) to prepare the message.

1 15. A method of operating a radio access network of a telecommunications
2 system which includes a serving control node (26₁) and at least one drift control node
3 (26₂), the serving control node (26₁) handling connections with user equipment units
4 (30) in a connected mode, the at least one drift control node (26₂) providing radio
5 resources in cells controlled by the at least one drift control node (26₂) for some of the
6 connections handled by the serving control node (26₁), the method comprising:
7 performing a reset procedure (104) at the serving control node;
8 sending from the serving control node (26₁) to the at least one drift control node
9 (26₂) a message resulting from performance of the reset procedure (104), the message
10 including an element which collectively indicates that a subset of the connections are to
11 be released; and

12 using the message so that the user equipment units (30) involved in the subset of
13 the connections can return to an idle mode.

1 16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:
2 performing at the serving control node (26₁) plural processes with each of the
3 plural processes handling a respective one of plural subsets of connections with user
4 equipment units (30) in the connected mode;
5 when the reset procedure (104) affects a specific one of the plural processes,
6 including in the message an element corresponding to the respective one of the plural
7 subsets of connections handled by the specific one of the plural processes.

1 17. The method of claim 15, further comprising sending, from the at least one
2 drift control node (26₂), a response message to the serving control node (26₁).

1 18. The method of claim 15, further comprising:
2 sending from the at least one drift control node (26₂) a further message to a base
3 station (28) controlled by the at least one drift control node (26₂);
4 including in the further message a further element, the further element being
5 derived from the element included in the message.

1 19. A message transmitted from a node (26₁ or 26₂) of a radio access network of
2 a telecommunications system to at least one other node of the radio access network, the
3 message resulting from occurrence of a reset procedure (104) affecting a control node
4 which controls connections with user equipment units (30) in a connected mode, the
5 message including an element which collectively indicates that a subset of the
6 connections are to be released so that the user equipment units (30) involved in the
7 subset of the connections can return to an idle mode.

1 20. A control node (26₁ or 26₂) of a radio access network of a
2 telecommunications system which has plural processes which handle a respective one
3 of plural subsets of connections with user equipment units (30) in a connected mode,
4 and wherein the control node is arranged upon initiating a new connection to assign the
5 new connection to a selected one of the plural processes and to assign to the new
6 connection a S-RNTI value from which it can be discerned that the new connection has
7 been assigned to the selected one of the plural processes.

1 21. A control node of claim 21, wherein the control node has plural processors
2 for respectively executing the plural processes, and wherein the control node is
3 arranged upon initiating a new connection to assign the new connection to a selected
4 one of the plural processors and to assign to the new connection a S-RNTI value from
5 which it can be discerned that the new connection has been assigned to the selected one
6 of the plural processors.

1 22. A method of operating a control node (26₁ or 26₂) of a radio access network
2 of a telecommunications system, the control node having plural processes which handle
3 a respective one of plural subsets of connections with user equipment units (30) in a
4 connected mode, the method comprising, upon initiating a new connection, the steps of:
5 assigning the new connection to a selected one of the plural processes; and
6 assigning to the new connection a S-RNTI-value from which it can be discerned
7 that the new connection has been assigned to the selected one of the plural processes.

1 23. The method of claim 22, wherein the control node has plural processors for
2 respectively performing the plural processes, and wherein the method comprises:
3 assigning the new connection to a selected one of the plural processors; and
4 assigning to the new connection a S-RNTI value from which it can be discerned
5 that the new connection has been assigned to the selected one of the plural processors.